Effects of Fuel Reduction and Exotic Plant Removal on Vertebrates, Vegetation and Water Resources in the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico

Final Report to the Joint Fire Sciences Program
Prepared by the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station





Address:

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) 333 Broadway SE, Suite 115 Albuquerque, NM 87102-3497 Main Phone Line: 505-724-3660

Principal Investigators:

Deborah M. Finch, Ph.D. Principal Investigator, Research Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service – RMRS, <u>dfinch@fs.fed.us</u>

Alice Chung-MacCoubrey, Ph.D. Research Wildlife Biologist, Mammalian Biology and Herpetology, USDA Forest Service – RMRS, <u>achungmaccoubrey@fs.fed.us</u>

Roy Jemison, Ph.D., Research Hydrologist, Soils and Hydrology, USDA Forest Service – RMRS until 2005 (now with USDA Forest Service – Southwest Region), rjemison@fs.fed.us

David Merritt, Ph.D., Ecologist, Stream Systems Technology Center, Fort Collins, CO, dmmerritt@fs.fed.us

Brad Johnson, Ph.D. Ecologist, Colorado State University, bjohnson-jec@comcast.net

Michael Campana, Ph.D., Director, Water Resources Program (WRP), University of New Mexico, aquadoc@unm.edu

Technician:

David Hawksworth, Biological Technician, Data Base Manager, USDA Forest Service – RMRS, <u>dlhawksworth@fs.fed.us</u>

Graduate Students:

Heather Bateman, Biological Technician & Herpetology graduate student, University of New Mexico, hbateman@unm.edu

Christian LeJuene, WRP graduate student, University of New Mexico, lejuene@unm.edu

Christian Gunning, WRP graduate student, University of New Mexico, icos.atropa@gmail.com

Lynda Price, WRP graduate student, University of New Mexico, lyndaprice5@yahoo.com

Acknowledgments:

For their support and assistance in this project, we would like to thank: Yasmeen Najmi and Sterling Grogan of Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District; John Taylor, Deb Davies, John Vradenburg, and Colin Lee of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge; Matt Schmader and Jon Hart of City of Albuquerque Open Space; Charlie Wicklund of New Mexico Division of Forestry and Ondrea Linderoth Hummel of Albuquerque Corps of Engineers. We would like to thank the many cooperating agencies who provided treatments, financial support, advice, and land access, including Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center in Los Lunas, Bosque Improvement Group, Joint Fire Sciences Program, the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station's Middle Rio Grande Ecosystem Management Unit, City of Albuquerque Open Space, and USDA Forest Service Southwest Region State and Private Forestry. We thank June Galloway, Jeff Kelly and Mike Means for helping in the early stages of this project and all the seasonal technicians who assisted in data collection.